4/12/72

U.S. Probes Physician of Mrs. Beard

By Sherry Keene
Special to The Washington Post

DENVER, Colo., April 11 — U.S. Attorney James L. Treece confirmed today that his department here has been considering since March 20, possible criminal action against Dr. Louis Radetsky, Denver physician for International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. lobbyist Dita D. Beard, on alleged Medicare overcharges.

Treece denied, however, that there is any connection between the investigation of Radetsky and the Senate subcommittee hearings in Washington. The subcommittee is investigating connections between settlement of an ITT antitrust case by the Justice Department and an ITT pledge to help underwrite the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) has charged that the Justice Department withheld knowledge of the Radetsky investigation at a time when the cubcommittee was relying on the doctor for his judgment of Mrs Beard's condition.

Officials of the Health, Education and Welfare Department say the case involves investigation of many small amounts of money Radetsky allegedly derived through what they said seem to be two or three kinds of possible misstatements of services.

Radetsky, an osteopathic physician specializing in cardiology, has been Mrs. Beard's doctor since she first arrived in Denver March 3. He has been advising the subcommittee on her condition, including her inability to travel to Washington to testify.

According to Treece, HEW officials referred Radetsky's case to his office on March 20, recommending criminal action.

Treece said he plans to review the matter and "see if it merits prosecution." If the case is good, he said, he will present it to a federal grand jury.

Radetsky termed the matter a "political football" and said it has been "blown out of all proportion."

"Three months ago," Radetsky said, "I received a routine notice of the Medicare audit. The letter said that they were withholding $7,000 in payments. Such audits are routine when your salary is over $25,000.

"Since that time nothing has been said to me by HEW, the Justice Department, or anyone. They have never requested a meeting, they have never demanded my files, never told me I had any misrepresentation or fraudulent claims.

"In my heart I know I've done nothing wrong," Radetsky said.